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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

June, 1956

Number 10

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

- R Adler, Irving. Tools in Your Life; illus. 5-9 by Ruth Adler. Day, 1956. 128p. \$2.95.

An interestingly presented account of man's development of tools from the earliest stone-axe to atomic energy. Beginning with the tool-making ability that from earliest times has set man apart from other animals, the development of tools is traced through the sociological effects that have resulted from the introduction of new inventions, or from the clinging to old tools and old ways of doing things. The book will make an excellent companion volume to the Burlingame, Machines that Built America (Harcourt, 1953) and the Shippen, Miracle in Motion (Harper, 1955).

- R Allen, Merritt Parmelee. East of Astoria; 7-9 illus. by Millard McGee. Longmans, 1956. 250p. \$3.

A story of the founding of Astoria on the Columbia River in Oregon. Young Rob Stuart and his uncle, David, had been employees of the Northwest Fur Company until they were

offered an opportunity to join Astor's company as partners. They traveled to Oregon on the Tonquin, helped establish the fort at Astoria, and Rob then traveled back across country to report to Astor on the success of their venture. The story, based on historical fact, vividly depicts the dangers faced by the early settlers whether they came by boat or over-land, and shows the reader the kinds of men who had the courage necessary to face those dangers. A slight mystery is included but it is poorly developed and tends to detract from rather than add to the appeal of what is otherwise a well-paced, exciting adventure story.

- R Anauta. Wild Like the Foxes; The True 7-10 Story of an Eskimo Girl. Day, 1956. 192p. \$2.60.

Fictionalized account of Alea, the author's mother, and her experiences as she grew up in Labrador. Alea's own mother died when she was a young girl, and under the tutelage of her father and foster brother she learned to hunt and fish but not to perform any of the activities that Eskimo women in Labrador were expected to do. When the people of the summer settlement criticized her wild ways, her father decided to take her to London for schooling. They were

BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago Library, Children's Book Center. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this BULLETIN are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

Published monthly except August. Subscription price is \$2.50 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

both unhappy during their stay in England, but Alea did learn enough to be able to prove to the people at home that she was no longer "wild like the foxes". The story makes absorbing reading in spite of an excess of sentimentality.

R Anderson, Joy. Hippolyte—Crab King; 1-3 illus. by Peter Spier. Harcourt, 1956. 39p. \$2.25.

Lilting tale of a small boy living in the village of Tuna Puna on Trinidad. Hippolyte wanted a costume for the annual Carnival, so he set out to earn enough to buy one by catching and selling the swamp crabs that were needed to make Callaloo, a traditional island stew. The story is best suited to reading aloud to young children. Although the illustrations are all in black and white, they manage to convey a feeling of the color and gaiety of the island

Ad Angelo, Valenti. Big Little Island. 6-7 Viking, 1955. 190p. \$2.75.

Fourteen year old Lorenzo Leoni likes living with his uncle's family in Greenwich Village, but he is still troubled by dreams and nightmares from his war experiences in Italy. As he grows out of his fears and comes to enjoy the warm family life around him, the reader gets a glimpse of Italian-American family life in New York City. This is not as good writing as some of Angelo's earlier works; it is more episodic, slower-paced and there is less depth to the characterizations. There is value, however, to the picture of family life and of New York City as seen through the experiences of the various members of the Leoni family.

NR Archibald, Joseph. Double Play Rookie. 7-9 Macrae, 1955. 208p. \$2.50.

Johnny Gramner's slum background affected his entire outlook on life. He was all for Johnny and had no concern for anyone else. His ability to play excellent baseball was almost cancelled out by his poor relationships with teammates and fans until the day when he needed help and his teammates rallied round. At that point he reformed completely and became as perfect a character as he had previously been unpleasant. Not only is the conversion too sudden and too complete, but the book is further weakened by the over-use of a few sports terms.

R Armstrong, Richard. Cold Hazard; illus. 8-12 by C. Walter Hodges. Houghton, 1956. 181p. \$2.50.

When the tramp steamer, Drumlogan, was wrecked on an iceberg, five men were inadvertently left aboard ship—the seventeen-

year-old third mate Jim Naylor, the senior apprentice Pibworthy, two beginning apprentices serving their first voyage, and a deck sailor with years of experience both on the steamer and in small boats. The five set sail in the ship's jolly boat, made their way to a bleak island off the northern coast of Newfoundland, and eventually were able to sail back to the mainland. Although definitely fiction, the story is written as if it were the straight-forward recounting of a real episode. The suspense is heightened by the author's adroit use of understatement to make this an adventure story worthy of a place with accounts of real adventures.

R Asimov, Isaac. The Martian Way and Other Stories. 8-12 Doubleday, 1955. 222p. \$2.95. A collection of two novelettes and two short stories based on typical science fiction themes and settings. The stories are swift-paced, suspenseful, and should have appeal for older science fiction fans.

R Baker, Nina (Brown). Amerigo Vespucci; 5-9 illus. by Paul Valentino. Knopf, 1956. 148p. \$2.50.

A well-written, documented biography of the man who furnished America with its name. Beginning with his youth, and his early interest in studies, especially maps and map making, the author gives a vivid picture of Vespucci's life—as a scholar, a business man, and an explorer. She indicates where there are gaps in the information that we have about the man and his activities and includes diverging theories about some of the controversial aspects of his life and work, including the circumstances under which his name rather than that of Columbus was given to the new world. Both the style of writing and the subject matter should give the book wide appeal.

Ad Ball, Zachary and Fowler, Myra. Wilder-ness Teacher; illus. by Leonard Vossburgh. Rand McNally, 1956. 224p. \$2.75.

A story of the Florida Everglades in 1894, and of a young girl's efforts to establish a school in the small community of Coconut Grove. Selina Williams came to Florida with her aunt, uncle and cousin after the doctor had suggested that this climate would be better for her cousin. At first the girl and her aunt were dismayed at the contrast between the primitive community and the home they had left in Cleveland, but in time the entire family came to love the new country. The story has more reality for its picture of life in this section of the country at this period than for its rather superficial characterizations.

R Behn, Harry. The Wizard in the Well.

K-6 Harcourt, 1956. 62p. \$2.25.

Another of Behn's delightful contributions to poetry for children, based on experiences of childhood, and ranging from a story-poem about a wizard who got his come-uppance to a lyric description of an Easter snowfall. A welcome addition to poetry collections in homes and libraries.

R Beim, Jerrold. Country School; pictures 1-3 by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1955. 48p. \$2.

Young Tony looked forward to the day when he would be old enough to attend the nearby country school with his older brother and sister. When news came that the school house was to be torn down and replaced by a large consolidated school, Tony was heartbroken and wanted nothing to do with the new building. Then came a day when he went to the new school with his mother and had a chance to help another pre-schooler find her way through the long corridors to the school office. The experience was a pleasant one, thanks to the helpful teachers and students, and Tony thereafter changed his mind about the new building. A pleasant little story that could be used to introduce first graders to the idea of attending a large school, or for older readers who are studying consolidated schools as a part of a unit on community life. The text is written at a beginning third grade reading level, and is printed in primer size type.

SpC Beim, Jerrold. Laugh and Cry; Your Emotions and How They Work; illus. by Ray Campbell. Morrow, 1955. 47p. \$2.

A fairly simple explanation of some of the basic emotions—anger, fear, love, sorrow, joy—that most children experience. Through the interactions of the five Jones children and their friends, each emotion is described and explained. The purpose of the book is to help children to understand why they have emotional reactions and how their emotions can be used for good instead of harm, and the author has achieved his purpose rather well. The primary usefulness of the book will be in guidance situations to stimulate discussion; there is no great appeal for general reading. The text is written at an upper fourth grade reading level and would need to be read aloud to younger children.

NR Bishop, Jim and Virginia Lee. Fighting Father Duffy; illus. by H. Lawrence Hoffman. Farrar, 1956. 189p. (Vision Books) \$1.95.

A biography of Francis Patrick Duffy, Catho-

lic priest who won fame during the first World War, that takes him from his unhappy, poverty-stricken childhood, through his experiences as a priest in New York City and with the Army overseas, to the end of his life. There are sentimental touches and a note of condescension throughout that cheapen the writing, and the emphasis on Duffy's lust for all things concerning war, as shown in such statements as: "He could no more resist the call to arms than some people can resist following the fire engines" or "He was annoyed at having missed the shooting", are scarcely commendable. The writing is too heavily weighted with Catholicism for the book to have much appeal for non-Catholic readers, and the poor writing will keep the story from having value for Catholic readers.

R Bloch, Marie Halun. Tony of the Ghost Towns; illus. by Dorothy Marino. Coward-McCann, 1956. 156p. \$2.75.

Twelve year old Tony Gardner was at odds with his mother, his two older brothers and his teacher over what he felt to be their complete lack of understanding of his needs and problems. His troubles sprang in part from the fact that he had to share a room with his brothers and had no real privacy and no safe place to keep the treasures he gathered from the nearby ghost towns and abandoned mines. Tony's struggle for independence and a recognition of his own individuality is told against the happenings of a small mining town in Colorado, and will make interesting reading for boys who are suffering from similar growing pains.

NR Bowen, Robert Sidney. The Last White Line. Lothrop, 1955. 189p. \$2.50.

After serving two years in reform school for a crime that he did not commit, Jerry Carney found himself with little money and no family except his older brother Danny, who was responsible for his arrest and who was now in jail on a robbery charge. Jerry went to New York City where he happened to meet the owner of the New York Bisons, made a favorable impression, and was given a chance to try out for the pro football team. His career with the Bisons was threatened by the return of his brother and by a crooked sports writer who tried to blackmail him, but they were both exposed in a melodramatic climax. The story is poorly written with unrealistic characters and situations and too much dependence on coincidence and sensationalism.

M Boyle, Joyce. Try Again Tommy; illus. by Nancy Plummer. Abingdon, 1956. 96p. \$1.50.

Twelve episodes depicting the activities of six-

year-old Tommy during a summer spent on a farm. The activities involve simple, everyday adventures such as climbing trees, picking berries, swimming, etc. In each instance Tommy is put in a situation where he must try several times in order to succeed. He always keeps trying and always succeeds. The situations are contrived and Tommy is much too good to be true. The text is written at a second grade reading level and the book might be used as a supplementary reading text.

SpR Bradbury, Ray. Switch on the Night;
K-1 illus. by Madeleine Gekiere. Pantheon, 1955, 49p. \$2.50.

A highly sophisticated picture book designed to help young children overcome their fear of the dark. The little boy did not like night and would not go out to play with the other children after dark. He would not touch light switches because they turn lights off. (The author ignores the fact that switches turn lights on as well as off.) Then one night the little boy met a child named Dark who taught him to think in terms of switching on the night, rather than switching off the light, and to listen to the comforting sounds that are found at night only—crickets, frogs, etc. After that the little boy was not afraid and was no longer lonely. The illustrations will have little, if any, meaning for most children; the idea in the text may be useful for helping children to overcome a fear of night.

Ad Bridgman, Betty. Lullaby for Eggs; with
K-2 pictures by Elizabeth Orton Jones. Macmillan, 1955. 29p. \$2.25.

Full-page, pastel drawings, some of them quite lovely, illustrate a rather sentimental poem in which Earth is enjoined to "Roll smoothly . . . guard fragile things". The "fragile things" are birds and their nests, wherever they may be found. A very slight item in which the pictures have much more to offer than has the text.

Ad Bright, Robert. Georgie to the Rescue.
K-2 Doubleday, 1956. 32p. \$1.75.
Another story about Georgie, the friendly little ghost who haunts the Whittaker's house, and his friends, Herman the cat and Miss Oliver the owl. The three go with the Whittakers to the nearby city where Miss Oliver is captured and sent to the zoo, only to be rescued by Georgie and Herman. The story has less spontaneity than Georgie, but will appeal to children who have already made friends with these characters.

SpR Brown, Palmer. The Silver Nutmeg; The

4-6 Story of Anna Lavinia and Toby. Harper, 1956. 138p. \$2.50.

A second story about Anna Lavinia, the little girl who lives with her mother and father (when he isn't wandering), in a house surrounded by paw-paw trees. One hot summer day while her father is out wandering, Anna Lavinia explores the near-by dew pond. The story of her adventures in the land on the other side of the dew pond is told with the mingling of fact and fantasy that modern children seem to prefer. This is a better developed piece of fantasy than the first book, and has less of the adult humor and sophistication that were found in the earlier story. The story is well suited to reading aloud, with elements to appeal both to the adult reader and the child listener.

M Brown, Slater. John the Baptist, Prophet of Christ. Association Press, 1955. 125p. (Heroes of God) \$2.

A somewhat misleading title in that this is not a biography of John the Baptist, but a story in which he plays a part, and not always a major part. The main character of the story is Asher, a young shepherd who becomes a follower of John and is with him to the time of his death. The characters are not fully developed and many of the conversations rely on modern slang that seems out of keeping with the period and the characters.

M Buckley, Peter. Michel of Switzerland.
4-6 Watts, 1955. 79p. (Around the World Today) \$3.50.

Excellent photographs and brief, uninspired text depict the life of a real young boy living in the Swiss mountain village of Evolene. The photographs and the discussion of the customs of the people and their ways of earning a living give the book some value as social studies material. It is too contrived to be interesting as a story book.

R Buehr, Walter. Meat from Ranch to Table.
4-6 Morrow, 1956. 95p. \$2.50.

The story of man's use of meat from the days of the Phoenicians to modern times. Emphasis is on the three main kinds of meat, cattle, sheep and hogs, with a discussion of where, throughout the world, each is the preferred meat and why. A major part of the book concerns the history of cattle raising in this country, and the last chapter deals with the slaughter and processing of meat. Interesting and informative material for social studies classes and for units on food.

R Caldwell, John C. Let's Visit Formosa;
6-10 Island Home of Free China. Day, 1956. 71p. \$2.50.

A brief, interestingly presented introduction to Formosa, telling something of its history, its people, its geography, and the present day social and economic conditions. No attempt is made to discuss the political situation, which is described but not evaluated. An excellent map and well-chosen photographs help to make this an attractive, informative book that will have real value for social studies classes or for readers who are interested in learning more about one of the problem spots in today's world.

M Cannam, Peggie. Black Fury; illus. by 6-8 Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1956. 181p. \$2.50.

A boy and horse story set in rural England. Young Nick Randall lived with his aunt and uncle, who gave him no affection and only a bare minimum of food and clothing. He became interested in Shillagh, a nervous, high-tempered black horse owned by a nearby farmer, and set forth to prove that the horse was frightened rather than mean. When Nick became seriously ill as a result of malnutrition and worry over the horse, which had been sold to a slaughter house, he was taken in custody by the local authorities, his aunt and uncle were jailed for mistreating him, and on his recovery he was adopted by a wealthy farmer who had taken a liking for him. The horse was saved and promptly brought forth a foal. The story moves with good pace and has many of the elements that give appeal to animal stories. In the mistreatment of the boy and of the horse the writing evokes a kind of sentimentality that is not as poorly handled as that in Black Beauty nor as skillfully done as in Hurry Home, Candy.

R Carlson, Bernice Wells. Act It Out; 3-7 illus. by Laszlo Matulay. Abingdon, 1956. 160p. \$2.

Directions and suggestions for the child who is interested in acting, whether it be the simple kind of spontaneous acting that children do at play or planned dramatics for special occasions. In addition to suggestions for doing creative dramatizations, there are sample plays included for each section. Contents include: acting games, pantomime games, pantomime plays, dramatic stunts, tableaux, skits, plays, pageants, fist puppets, ring puppets, cardboard puppets, blockhead puppets, bag-head puppets, shadow puppets, hand puppets, rod puppets, and marionettes. Some directions are given for making the puppets, although in the case of the hand puppets and marionettes these are not detailed enough to be of much help. Brief bibliographies at the back list

other, more detailed, books on various aspects of acting and puppetry. A useful book for club and hobby groups.

M Carter, Hodding. Robert E. Lee and the 5-7 Road of Honor; illus. by William Hutchinson. Random House, 1955. 186p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.50.

A rather superficial biography of Lee that attempts to show those elements of his personality that made him a great and a greatly-loved leader. The highlights of his career are presented, but the short length of the text makes this more a profile than a complete biography. Neither the style nor the coverage can compare with the Commager, America's Robert E. Lee (Houghton, 1951). The author's seeming approval of Lee's decision to place loyalty to his state above loyalty to the nation seems questionable in terms of present day North-South tensions.

Ad Carter, Page. Mystery at Ding-Dong Gulch; 5-7 illus. by Fred Collins. Lippincott, 1956. 159p. \$2.50.

Three cousins, Bucky, Christopher and Melinda, are spending a summer in Silverhorn, Colorado, where Melinda's father is working for the Atomic Energy Commission. In addition to the normal pleasures of horseback riding, hiking, visits to abandoned mines, etc., the children become involved in a mystery that includes a boarded-up house that is lighted by floodlights every night, an old recluse who lives in the house and uses a secret passage way to get in and out, a newcomer who is obviously up to no good since he races around the country in a red convertible, and a search for uranium. The children help solve the mystery in a moderately plausible manner that is not too dependent on coincidence.

Ad Chafetz, Henry. The Lost Dream; drawings K-2 by Ronni Solbert. Knopf, 1956. 32p. \$2.50.

Six year old Mikel was having a splendid dream one night when a loud noise wakened him. He went around the next day seeking his lost dream, but had no luck finding it until his grandmother suggested that he wish hard each night until he wished himself to the Keeper of Dreams. This he did and one night dreamed himself into the land of lost dreams, where he found his dream and finished it. A rather subtle idea but one that will have appeal for imaginative children. For reading aloud.

M Christopher, Matthew F. Baseball Pals; 3-5 illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, 1956. 117p. \$2.50.

Jimmie felt that as captian of his baseball team he had the right to chose the position he would

play, and he wanted to be pitcher. Even though it cost the team the services of his friend Paul, who had been the pitcher the previous year, and even when Jimmie proved himself unable to handle the position, he continued in his stubbornness. Finally he realized what he was doing to the team, persuaded Paul to return, and went back to his position in the infield. The moral is made as obvious as Jimmie's lack of pitching ability, detracting from what otherwise might have made a good addition to baseball stories for young readers.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. First Boat; How to Pick It and Use It for Fun Afloat. Coward-McCann, 1956. 48p. \$2.

In much the same pattern as his other "First" books, the author presents brief information and detailed drawings designed for the beginner who is just becoming acquainted with boats. The types of boats described include: rowboat, canoe, sailboat, outboard motor boat. In each instance the author first describes the varieties within each general type and then gives directions for handling each kind. The final sections are devoted to the care of boats, brief boating traffic rules, types of anchors, boating knots, what to do in sudden storms, and what to do in case a boat capsizes. Although the book is less detailed than the Gossett, First Book of Boats (Watts, 1953) or the Brindze, Boating Is Fun (Dodd, 1949), it will serve adequately as a first book for the beginner.

M Colling, Susan. Frogmorton; drawings by Ernest H. Shepard. Knopf, 1956. 146p. \$2.50.

A somewhat precious story about a turtle and a frog living in England. Timothy Tortoise, poor and down-trodden, is invited to spend Christmas with his friend, Frederick Frog, at Frogmorton Hall in Frobshire. His visit lengthens well beyond Christmas as he makes himself useful around the garden and finds a way to save the Hall when it is about to be sold for back taxes. The story has more than a touch of Wind in the Willows, although it is by no means as good. The humor is occasionally labored, the style is too whimsical and descends at times to the level of bathos. Shepard's illustrations are the nicest part of the book.

M Cooke, Donald Edwin. Valley of Rebellion; A Story of America's First Revolt Against British Authority; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Winston, 1955. 210p. \$2.50.

Set in 1765, ten years before the American

Revolution, the story tells of the revolt of a group of West Pennsylvania farmers against the British who were allowing Philadelphia merchants to trade guns and hatchets to the neighboring Indians. The story is told through the experiences of fifteen-year-old Jerry Wharton, son of a Philadelphia merchant, who makes the trip in one of his father's wagons, and who ends by joining the farmers. Because of the very mediocre writing, the story frequently bogs down, and the characters are too typed to have much appeal as individuals.

NR Coombs, Charles Ira. The Case of the Purple Mark. Westminster, 1955. 192p. \$2.75.

A cliché-ridden, melodramatic mystery story of murder in a high school chemistry lab, atomic secrets, and subversives. The teen-age characters in the story withhold evidence from the police; interfere where they have been asked to stay away, and end by solving the mystery that has the police baffled. A major part of the story hinges on one incident which the author credits to first one character and then another.

Ad Crisp, Frank. The Java Wreckmen; illus. by R. M. Powers. Coward-McCann, 1956. 249p. \$3.

Another story of Dirk Rogers and his cousin, Jim Cartwright, deep-sea salvage divers, operating in the South China Seas. This time they become involved in the search for a Dutch submarine lost in an Indonesian harbor, and with a gang of Indonesian rebels and a lost cargo of gold. The story borders on, but never quite succumbs to, the melodramatic and will make an exciting adventure story for boys who are interested in modern sea adventures.

SpC Derleth, August William. Father Marquette and the Great Rivers; illus. by H. Lawrence Hoffman. Farrar, 1955. 188p. (Vision Books) \$1.95.

A biography of Father Marquette, stressing the religious side of his life. His explorations along the Mississippi River and his work among the Indians are all expressed in terms of his own desire for martyrdom, with the result that the historical effects of his work are often lost sight of. The book could have value for Catholic schools, but there is little here to appeal to non-Catholic readers.

R Dick, Trella Lamson. Tornado Jones on Sentinel Mountain; illus. by Mary Stevens. Follett, 1955. 224p. \$2.95.

Tornado Jones is spending the summer with his friend, Paul Travis, and Paul's family in Idaho, where Mr. Travis is superintending the

construction of a dam. The two boys alternate between the construction camp and the dude ranch where Mrs. Travis and Derek are staying. During the course of the summer they explore the mountain, help a G.I.'s family and make friends with an old prospector. The account of their activities is told with the same warmth of characterizations of the earlier story, and in some ways this one seems much more plausible.

R Dillon, Eilis. The House on the Shore. 7-9 Funk & Wagnalls, 1956. 250p. \$2.75. An adventure story set on the coast of Ireland. Jim O'Malley came to Cloghanmore to stay with an uncle he had never met, only to find the villagers in arms against his uncle and the man himself nowhere to be found. The uncle's treachery in robbing the villagers of their life savings, his dealings with two foreign pirates, and Jim's part in the capture of the three and the reformation of the uncle, make a well-paced adventure story, told with much of the flavor of Masefield's Jim Davis. The story compares favorably in pace, plotting and characterizations with the author's earlier books.

NR Disney, Walt. Davy Crockett's Keelboat 3-5 Race; told by Irwin Shapiro; pictures yrs. by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Mel Crawford. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 24p. (A Mickey Mouse Club Book) 25¢.

A cut, slightly re-written version of one of the episodes from Davy Crockett and Mike Fink. Like the longer book, this one suffers from weak writing and poor illustrations.

Ad Dobie, James Frank. Up the Trail from 6-8 Texas; illus. by John C. Wonsetler. Random House, 1955. 182p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.50.

An attempt to present the days of the cattle drives from Texas to the north as they really were, without the glamor that has been added by Hollywood and some of the writers of Westerns. The real facts make as interesting reading as the more glamorized versions, although the appeal of the book is somewhat weakened by the author's casual use of dates that occasionally leaves the reader confused as to just what happened when.

R Du Bois, William Pène. Lion. Viking, K-3 1956. 36p. \$3. Amusing picture-story book of how the lion came into being. In the sky workshop known as the Animal Factory, 104 artists sat creating new animals. One day Foreman thought up the name "Lion", and then set about draw-

ing a beast to fit the name. After several experiments with feathers and fur and a rainbow of colors, he came forth with the kingly beast as he is today. The text is fun to read aloud and young children will enjoy the bright colors and humorous pictures.

NR Eager, Edward McMaken. Knight's Castle; 4-6 illus. by N. M. Bodecker. Harcourt, 1956. 183p. \$2.75.

As in Half Magic, the author once again tells of a group of modern children who are transported back in time and space to an earlier period. This time the children go back to the days of Ivanhoe, Robin Hood, and Richard I. There is as little originality in this story as there was to the earlier one, the author drawing freely on Lewis Carroll and E. Nesbit for his inspiration, and several of the episodes read like parodies of these writers. Many of the references to adult poems and novels will be meaningless to most readers.

Ad Emery, Russell Guy. Hyland of the Hawks. 7-9 Macrae, 1955. 208p. \$2.50.

Johnny Hyland, hero of Relief Pitcher, is back again with the major league Hawks. This time he gets into trouble during spring training, is sent down to a minor league team as punishment and then is brought up again to end the season with the Hawks. The plot and characterizations are somewhat routine, but the game descriptions are quite good and will give the book its chief appeal.

Ad Evans, Hubert. Mountain Dog. Westminster, 7-9 1956. 168p. \$2.75.

The story of a modern Indian boy living in British Columbia. Young Hal Radigan, back with his tribe after three years of high school in Vancouver, was anxious to obtain work for the summer in order to enter the university in the fall and begin training for conservation work. He found his people upset over the actions of Belile, a white man who controlled all of the jobs in the area and who was threatening to spoil the nearby streams and lake by cutting off all the surrounding timber. Working with a Mountie, a man from the Fisheries Service, and a stray dog, Hal was able to help prove Belile to be a wanted criminal and to save the streams for salmon spawning grounds. The characterizations of Hal and his people are quite good, as are the descriptions of the country and the importance of the streams for the salmon industry. Belile is less realistically handled and the episodes relating to him border on the melodramatic.

NR Faber, Doris. Elaine Stinson: Campus Reporter. Knopf, 1955. 178p. \$2.

A patterned career-school story. Elaine Stinson is the second girl in the history of Roswell College to win a position as campus reporter on the large, city paper, the Express. Although she is allowed to report the news of Roswell College only, a boy having been assigned to the University as a whole, she makes the most of her opportunity and through a series of fortuitous scoops earns a permanent job on the Express and acquires the other reporter as a permanent boy friend. Not a very good picture of either newspaper work or campus life.

R Fincher, Ernest B. The President of the United States. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 192p. \$3.50.

An absorbing discussion of the office of the President of the United States. In a refreshingly frank manner the author discusses who may be president, how presidential candidates are chosen, how elections are handled, the work of the president, the powers of the president, the official family, and some of the good and bad features of the personalities and achievements of presidents through the years. Except that the author attempts to give the book a timelessness by referring to Eisenhower and his administration in the past tense, the material is well-written. The book will be especially useful for social studies classes, and will have appeal for general readers who are interested in politics.

R Fitch, Florence Mary. The Child Jesus; K-2 illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Lothrop, 1955. 32p. \$2.50.

A picture story book telling of events that might have happened in the life of Jesus when he was a child in Nazareth. The text and illustrations give a pleasing picture of life of that time, and present Jesus as a real little boy distinguished from other children only by his deep reverence and sense of one-ness with God. The illustrations are colorful but have a lack of sharpness that makes them seem out of focus. The text is well-suited to reading aloud to young children.

NR Fletcher, Helen Jill, comp. The Trumpet Book of Laughs; illus. by Raymond J. Vartanian. Gabriel, 1955. 64p. (A Trumpet Book) 25¢.

A collection of well-worn jokes, riddles, and cartoons. There is some repetition of jokes within the collection, and several instances of typographical errors. The book is supposed to serve as an antidote to the comics, but it has little to offer that is better than the average comic book in quality of illustrations, paper, or content.

Ad Franklin, George Cory. Son of Monte; 4-6 illus. by L. D. Cram. Houghton, 1956. 137p. \$2.25.

Brother, the son of the grizzly bear Monte, is inhabiting his father's old grounds near the mine that is operated by Dick Harvey and Jim Harbison, the men who helped to rear Monte. The story of Brother's adventures is quite similar to his father's story, and because of the many references to earlier events, the first book will need to have been read before this one can be completely enjoyed. In spite of the fact that the bears come close to being personified, the book gives a good picture of the habits of grizzlies and of the country in which they live.

M Frazier, Neta Lohnes. Young Bill Fargo; 7-9 decorations by Pers Crowell. Longmans, 1956. 202p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Bill Fargo started with his parents and ten-year-old sister on the overland journey to Oregon in 1869. His parents died en route and Bill was left with the task of getting his sister safely to Oregon and finding his brother Mark who had gone out a year before. Bill's adventures include panning gold, an Indian attack, a brush with some outlaws, and work on the Columbia River boat before he sees his brother and sister happily situated and is able to plan his own life. The episodes are exciting but somewhat too contrived to be wholly realistic. The characters are one-dimensional and the whole tone of the book lacks the robustness needed to make it a good adventure story.

NR Gardner, Lillian S. Exactly Like Ben's; 3-4 pictures by Michael Mitchell. Watts, 1956. 85p. \$2.50.

Ben Werner and Amy Jackson had lived next door to each other, in a duplex, all their lives and from the time they were babies each had insisted on having exactly the same toys as the other. As they grew older their tastes changed and by the time they were seven, Amy was principally interested in dolls and Ben in his model railroad. Then came the birth of Ben's baby sister and Amy became jealous because she could not also have a baby sister. How she learned to accept the fact that she could not go through life having everything exactly like Ben's makes a rather pedestrian, very obviously didactic story. Written at a fourth grade reading level.

R Hall-Quest, Olga (Wilbourne). Wyatt Earp: Marshall of the Old West. Ariel, 1956. 177p. \$2.75.

Although not a profound character study, this biography of Wyatt Earp will make absorbing reading for youngsters who are interested in

the early, lawless days of the frontier. Unlike Wild Bill Hickok, who also flourished at this time, Earp was interested in maintaining law and order with a minimum of shooting, although he could and did shoot effectively when necessary. The author's writing has an occasional ring of Hollywood, but there are sound ideas presented and the picture of the era is much more sane and healthy than that found in many biographies of western marshals or in stories of this period.

SpC Hark, Mildren and McQueen, Noel. Junior
4-6 Plays for All Occasions; A Collection
of Royalty-Free, One-Act Plays for
Children. Plays, Inc., 1955. 576p.
\$4.

A collection of forty-three one act plays written for special occasions, such as Halloween, Book Week, Thanksgiving, or to teach lessons, such as courtesy, grammar, health, safety, etc. The plays are without literary merit, and will have value only where such materials are needed for school assembly programs.

R Harris, Louise Dyer and Norman Dyer.
2-4 Slim Green; illus. by Robert Candy.
Little, 1955. 53p. \$2.

An attractive, interestingly presented account of the life of a small green snake and the animals it encounters during the course of one summer. Although a story form is used, the animals are not personified, and the book will make a useful addition to nature study collections.

M Hayward, Arthur L. Explorers and Their
7-9 Discoveries; with 8 halftone plates
and 12 route maps. Abelard-Schuman,
1955. 240p. \$3.

Brief sketches of sixteen important journeys of exploration from the time of Columbus to Captain Scott's disastrous expedition to the South Pole. The accounts touch only the highlights of each journey and usually deal with a single voyage by an explorer. In his attempt to condense explanations into a few sentences, the author frequently makes statements that are not literally true, or that are over-simplified to the point of being misleading. The illustrations are described on the jacket as "photographs", but they are actually reproductions of old drawings or paintings and detract from rather than adding to the appeal of the book. The maps are tantalizing in their lack of detail. The fine type and uneven inking will deter many readers and there is little about the book to whet a reader's appetite for fuller accounts of these same voyages.

R Hofsinde, Robert. Indian Sign Language.
5-9 Morrow, 1956. 96p. \$2.50.

An authentic glossary of over 500 Indian signs that are universally used, and including some modern terms such as movie and automobile. Each sign is described in clear, concise text, and many are accompanied by pictures that help to demonstrate positions and movements of the hands. Some Indian tribal names are included. The words are in no special groupings although the arrangement is such that words requiring several signs are not introduced until each of the separate signs involved has been described. The contents are fully indexed. This is a book to have appeal for boys who are interested in Indian lore or in codes and sign language of all kinds.

Ad Jackson, Charlotte E. (Cobden). The Story
5-7 of San Francisco; illus. by Kurt Werth.
Random House, 1955. 182p. (A Land-
mark Book) \$1.50.

A brief overview of the history of California, with special emphasis on the events centering in and around San Francisco. The brevity of the material and over-simplification of issues and events results in occasional misconceptions, i.e., Fremont's is the only name associated with the California revolt against Mexico; Sutter is implied as being responsible for the imprisonment of Leese and Vallejo. Because the emphasis is on the general history of the area, San Francisco itself never emerges with any individuality as a city, except perhaps in the account of the 1906 earthquake. The final chapter summarizes the rebuilding of the city and what it is like today. The author has been unable to do for San Francisco what Shippen did so admirably for New York in her I Know a City (Viking, 1954).

NR Johnson, Grace Tracy and Harold N. A
6-8 Hand Raised at Gettysburg. Bruce,
1955. 122p. (Catholic Treasury Books)
\$2.

A purposive book written to show the work of the Catholic priests during the Civil War. The story is told through the experiences of a young soldier, who wants to learn all he can about war so that he can then go to Ireland and avenge his father's death by fighting the British, but whose attitude is changed by the Catholic priest who is attached to his Company. The overemphasis on the influence of the priests gives a misleading picture of the events of the war. There is no depth to the characterizations and the writing never rises above the mediocre.

Ad Jones, Lloid and Juanita Nuttall. Horse-

7-9 man of the Long Gone River. Westminster, 1956. 191p. \$2.75.

Ken Addison, just out of high school, had persuaded his father not to sell the family's ranch until he could have a chance to rebuild it and make a paying proposition of it again. The task was a hard one for the ranch had suffered greatly in the care of tenant ranchers ever since an accident forced Mr. Addison to give up outdoor life and move to nearby Denver. During the summer Ken faced the problems of inadequate pasturage, of cattle rustlers, and of learning to cooperate with the national forest rangers. By the end of the summer the rustlers had been captured and the ranch was well on the way to prosperity. In spite of the very routine plot, the story will have appeal for its descriptions of the country and the well-handled characterizations.

R Kay, Helen. One Mitten Lewis; illus. by 3-5 Kurt Werth. Lothrop, 1955. 31p. yrs. \$2.

Lewis is a small boy with a bad habit of losing one of a pair of mittens. By the time the winter is well under way he has a collection of single mittens but no pairs that match. At this point his mother decides that he will just have to wear mis-matched mittens. Lewis is unhappy until he meets a little girl who has just moved to the neighborhood and who suffers from the same bad habit. They pool their collections and manage to get enough matching pairs to last them through the winter. A slight story, but one that will appeal to many youngsters who have similar experiences with mittens.

R Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Lion Hound; 7-9 illus. by Jacob Landau. Holiday House, 1955. 216p. \$2.75.

A story of the Arizona mountain country. Young Johnny Torrington spent as much as possible of his free time with Jake Kane, an old-time mountain lion hunter, who taught him the ways of the wild animals of the rim-rock country. When Jake was killed by a rogue lion, Johnny set out to avenge his death and to win for himself the affection of Jake's young dog, Buck. The story of the hunt for the lion is told with Kjelgaard's usual skill in describing mountain country and in building suspense.

SpR Krauss, Ruth. Charlotte and the White Horse; pictures by Maurice Sendak. 1-3 Harper, 1955. 24p. \$2.

Highly imaginative story of a small girl and her make-believe white horse. The little girl takes care of the horse from the time it is a colt, persuades her father not to sell it, and

thereafter rides the horse each morning and grooms and feeds it each night. The story is too subtle for any except the most imaginative children. The pastel colors of Sendak's illustrations capture the dream-like quality of the story.

R Kyle, Elisabeth. The House of the Pelican; 5-7 illus. by Peggy Fortnum. Nelson, 1955. 248p. \$2.50.

A mystery story set against a background of Edinburgh's famous Royal Mile during the annual music festival. Four children are involved, Chris MacKendrick, a Scots girl who lives in Edinburgh; Pat and Janet Foley, English children whose father plays in one of the Festival orchestras, and Will Bloomfield, an American boy whose parents are attending the Festival in the hope of finding some musicians to hire for their local symphony orchestra in Fairport, Massachusetts. The mystery involves the search for a music box for Mr. Bloomfield's collection and takes the children through the labyrinthine alleys of the Royal Mile before they find the House of the Pelican and the music box. The plot development is plausible, and except for Janet who seems much too young for her nine years, the characters are realistically portrayed.

R La Croix, Robert de. Mysteries of the North Pole; trans. from the French by 8-12 Edward Fitzgerald. Day, 1956. 251p. \$3.50.

Brief accounts of four ill-fated voyages to the North Pole: Sir John Franklin's expedition with the Erebus and the Terror in 1845; Salomon Andr  e's attempt to reach the North Pole by balloon in 1897; the loss of the sealer Saint Anne in 1912; and the disastrous flight of the Italia in 1928 which resulted in Amundsen's death during the rescue operations. The accounts are well-told and will have interest for many readers.

R Lambert, Eloise. Our Language; The Story of the Words We Use. Lothrop, 1955. 6-8 181p. \$3.

An informal, interestingly presented discussion of the development of language, with the emphasis on the development of the English language as it is spoken in the United States. Beginning with the differences in word usage and pronunciation in this country, the author then goes back in time and introduces the various historical events that have affected the growth of the English language. The book is divided into three parts: The Geography of Words, The History of Words, and The Use of Words (including slang, jargon, technical words, formal English, etc.).

Ad Lansing, Elisabeth Carleton (Hubbard).
5-7 Lulu Herself; illus. by Grace Paull.
Crowell, 1956. 153p. \$2.50.

Lulu Burgoyne, whose influence was so strongly felt, although she herself was not on the scene, in Lulu's Window, is here shown in the ups and downs of her adjustments to life in New York City. Lulu wanted to be as much of a leader in her new school as she had been in Danford, but her first attempts to make an impression were more often disastrous than successful. In time she came to recognize the sound quality of the friendship offered by quiet, unassuming Nancy, and the pseudo-glamor of Gloria and her crowd, and was well on her way to a happy and successful school year. There is no great depth to the story but it does give an interesting picture of New York City and of private school life.

Ad Lathrop, West. Dogsled Danger; illus.
7-9 by Richard M. Powers. Random
House, 1956. 247p. \$2.95.

A story of the Alaskan gold rush in the early 1900's. Cleve Britton, a young boy who had been in the Yukon region for a scant two years, was taking a borrowed dog team home one day when he was accosted by a stranger and forced to go with him. Their trail led through the frozen North and ended in a gold strike for Cleve and jail for the stranger. Although not as good writing as some of the author's earlier books, this is an adequate adventure story for boys.

R Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Molly in the Middle. Morrow, 1956. 127p.
\$2.25.

Molly sometimes felt that her position as the middle child in a family of nine children gave her more than her share of problems. She was not old enough for the privileges of the older four, but she had to assume responsibility for part of the care of the younger four. Her story is told through a series of episodes that reflect the fun and warmth of a large family, living and working together. There are moments of mild suspense and of humor told with an understanding of children and their problems.

SpR Lawson, Robert. Captain Kidd's Cat.
7-9 Little, 1956. 152p. \$3.

In the same vein as his Ben and Me and Mr. Revere and I, Lawson tells the "inside" story of Captain Kidd. The adventures are recounted by Mc-Dermot, a black cat with a ruby ring in its left ear who is given to Kidd by the pirate, Tom Tew. Mc-Dermot thought he had retired

from the sea, but when it became a choice of remaining on shore with Mrs. Kidd or joining the Captain on the ill-fated Adventure Galley, he chose the latter and so was in a position to tell the true story of Kidd's adventures. As in the earlier books, the story is told with a tongue-in-cheek type of humor whose subtleties may be lost on many readers, and with more than a grain of authenticity.

SpC Lewis, Oscar. The Story of California;
6-8 illus. by John N. Barron. Garden City
Books, 1955. 56p. \$2.50.

History of California in brief text and drawings, many of them full-page. The emphasis is on the historical background of the state, with the final chapter bringing the account up to date, with a mention of modern industries and points of interest. The brevity of the text will limit the book's usefulness to that of an introduction to the history of the state. The text is much more difficult than the format would indicate and would need to be read aloud to children reading below the sixth grade reading level.

M Lockridge, Frances and Richard. The Cat Who Rode Cows; pictures by Peggy
2-4 Bacon. Lippincott, 1955. 37p. \$2.25.

Pandora, a Siamese cat, had lived all her life in the city and her first experiences in the country were frightening and confusing. When she finally gained enough courage to explore away from the house she was chased by a dog and jumped on the back of a cow to escape. Both the cat and the cow were startled, but both soon accepted the situation, and thereafter Pandora spent a goodly part of her time in the pasture riding on the cow's back. Then one day she mistook a deer for a cow and the resulting wild ride was nothing that her previous experience had led her to expect. A very slight, slow-moving story with occasional flashes of humor and suspense.

Ad Lyon, Jessica. Not for One Alone. Macrae,
8-12 1955. 191p. \$2.75.

Until the time of their marriage, twenty-one-year old Gil and nineteen-year-old Marcy had each been the center of attention in their respective families, and neither had learned to assume any responsibility or to give much thought to other people. Their first year together was difficult and their marriage might have collapsed had it not been for the understanding help of friends. A purposive book with obvious characterizations that serve to teach a lesson but that do not emerge as real people. The solutions to the problems are valid ones and give the book some value as guidance material.

Ad Malvern, Gladys. Saul's Daughter; 7-9 decorations by Vera Bock. Longmans, 1956. 241p. \$3.

Another title in the author's growing list of romances about famous women of the Bible. This time the story centers around Michal, youngest daughter of Saul, and her love for David. The events of the story follow closely the usual biblical accounts. The writing is more glib and there is less depth to the characterizations than in some of the author's earlier books, but the picture of the times is well-done.

SpC Mauzey, Merritt. Texas Ranch Boy. 7-9 Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 77p. \$2.75. In a format and style similar to that of his Cotton Farm Boy, the author has written a series of only slightly related episodes and descriptions to match some rather nice lithographs of scenes from Texas ranch life in the early days of this century. Although the author insists throughout that this is a story, there is no plot, no action, and the characters are identified by name only. The illustrations would be useful for art classes.

NR Memling, Carl. We Went to the Doctor; K-2 illus. by Virginia Carten. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 58p. \$2.50.

An attempt to picture visits to the doctor in such a way as to allay a child's fears. Under the circumstances given here, such visits undoubtedly are pleasant, but this book by no means suffices as a complete picture of what doctor's visits entail. Four-year-old Lise, now graduated to the ranks of bi-yearly check-ups, goes with her mother and two-month-old baby brother Billy for Billy's monthly check-up. For children with younger brothers and sisters the book could have interest as depicting a familiar experience, but it will do little to calm the fears of a child to whom a doctor's office already represents pain and discomfort. The style is easy enough for many second grade readers to handle alone, but the age of the main character would lessen their interest in the subject. The illustrations are unattractive.

R Merrill, Jean. The Travels of Marco; K-3 drawings by Ronni Solbert. Knopf, 1956. 42p. \$2.50.

Marco is a pigeon living in a rooftop coop in New York City. Every day he flies around with the twenty-four other pigeons from the coop and then returns to the rooftop for a meal of buckwheat. One day he notices the large sign on one of the buildings advertising the newspaper, Forward, and decides to

follow its advice. He flies to various sections of the city, sampling food on the way—bagels, fried rice, ripe olives, frozen peas—and rejecting each in turn until he discovers Central Park and peanuts. There he settles down to the perfect life and the perfect food for pigeons. A picture story book with an unobtrusive lesson in the bird's eye view of different people and their different tastes.

NR Montgomery, Rutherford George. The Golden Stallion's Victory; illus. by George Giguere. Little, 1956. 201p. \$2.75.

Once again it is summer, and once again the Carter family face the prospect of losing their ranch. This time the threat comes from a neighboring rancher who wants to buy them out, but otherwise the plot is the same as that of the previous Golden Stallion books. The villains are thwarted and the ranch is saved.

Ad Morgan, Carol McAfee. A New Home for Pablo; illus. by Harvey Weiss. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 144p. \$2.50.

Pablo Torres is a young Puerto Rican boy who moves, with his mother, younger sister, and grandmother, from their island home to New York City, where Mr. Torres works for a hotel. The story of Pablo's adjustment is told with warmth and sincerity, although with a somewhat sentimental tone, and Pablo is almost too good to be wholly realistic. An adequate addition to materials on intercultural understanding.

NR Morris, Jay. Mystery at Stony Cove; 5-7 illus. by Mary Stevens. Gabriel, 1955. 64p. (A Trumpet Book) 25¢.

A poorly-written melodramatic mystery story involving three children, their two dogs, and an imposter who is posing as the guardian of one of the children. The children solve the mystery with a maximum of coincidence and a minimum of adult help. The unnatural dialog and improbable situations make this no better than the comic books it is designed to supplant.

R Morrison, Lillian, comp. A Diller, a Dollar; Rhymes and Sayings for the Ten O'Clock Scholar; illus. by Marj Bauernschmidt. Crowell, 1955. 150p. \$2.50.

A collection of the bits of school room and school yard wit and wisdom, taunts and complaints, such as children write in textbooks and autograph books, and yell at each other on the school grounds. Some of the verses are very old, some are quite modern, and all have a freshness and verve to appeal to young and old alike. The arrangement is by school subjects. Bauern-

schmidt's illustrations add to the humor of the text.

- R Musgrave, Florence. Marged; The Story of a Welsh Girl in America; illus. by Arline K. Thomson. Ariel, 1956. 250p. \$2.75.

The author has once again written a warmly sympathetic, understanding story of a Welsh family's adjustment to life in the Pittsburgh mill area of the early nineteen hundreds. Marged's family settled on a farm on the banks of the Ohio River where they could raise a few animals and could enjoy watching the river traffic. Except for Marged's conflicts with her stubborn, occasionally tyrannical grandmother, life was serene in the new home through the first summer and winter. Then came the spring floods and grandmother refused to leave the house in spite of the warnings of the neighbors. By the time she realized the danger, the water was up to the second floor of the house, and in the attempt to reach land Marged's parents were drowned. Marged was bitter toward her grandmother at first, but in time she learned the need for forgiveness.

- M Nourse, Alan E. Junior Intern. Harper, 7-9 1955. 210p. \$2.50.

A career story for boys involving a young high school graduate who is trying to decide for or against a career as a doctor. During the summer following his graduation, Ted Coleman is given an opportunity to work as a junior intern in the Darwin General Hospital. He learns the work of the children's ward, the laboratory, and the emergency ward; helps to man a first-aid station during a serious slum fire, and participates in a research project involving transfusions. The plot is contrived to bring in the various aspects of hospital work, and the characterizations are equally contrived to fit the purpose of the book.

- Ad Osmond, Edward. Animals of the World; 4-6 Elephants, Camels, Polar Bears, Chimpanzees. Oxford, 1956. 127p. \$2.25.

Brief descriptions of four types of animals: elephants, camels, polar bears, and chimpanzees, telling the differences in the species as they exist in various parts of the world, how each type is adapted to the natural environment in which it lives, and how man makes use of each. The material is interesting and is presented in a readable manner. The lack of opacity in the paper makes difficult reading.

- NR Pauli, Hertha Ernestine. Three Is a Family; illus. by Kurt Werth. Washburn, 1955. 151p. \$2.75.

A story of post-war Germany and of young Kitty Matthews's search for her American father. Kitty's German grandmother will have nothing to do with Americans, but a young woman in a nearby town who became interested in Kitty's case has corresponded for years with Mr. Matthews and eventually is able to bring father and daughter together. Her own romance with Mr. Matthews makes it possible for the three of them to return to the States and establish a home. The disjointed, occasionally confused style will be too difficult for immature readers and there is not enough depth or substance to the story to appeal to the more mature readers.

- Ad Peare, Catherine Owens. Robert Louis 4-6 Stevenson: His Life; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Holt, 1955. 128p. \$2.25.

A pleasing, not very profound full-length biography of Robert Louis Stevenson. The events and people in his life that served as inspiration for his writings are introduced, as are the writings themselves. The people, including Stevenson, all remain as surface images and the reader never has the feeling that he really knows them. The style makes easy reading and the book could be used as a stepping stone to more difficult, but more comprehensive, biographies such as the Grover, Robert Louis Stevenson, Teller of Tales (Dodd, 1940) or the Proudfit, Treasure Hunter (Messner, 1939).

- M Philbrook, Clement E. Skimeister. Macmillan, 1955. 164p. \$2.50.

A mediocre story of skiing at Dartmouth College. Steve Butler failed to make the ski team during his freshman year when low grades forced him to give up all sports. The next year he did better, having learned to organize his study periods in the meantime, and not only made the team but also won the Skimeister award. The descriptions of skiing are good, but the story is marred by an excessively slangy style and typed characterizations.

- NR Philips, Eleanor. About Oil. Melmont, 1-2 1955. 31p. \$1.50.

An attempt to explain the process by which oil is obtained from the ground, refined, and used in terms that beginning readers can understand and can read independently. The results are only partially successful. The simplification does not always make clear the processes involved, and since considerable adult help will be needed with the technical terms it seems unfortunate that the text is not more detailed and more useful. The primer style is stilted, uninteresting and condescending.

- R Pohlmann, Lillian. Myrtle Albertina's Secret; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Coward-McCann, 1956. 128p. \$2.50.

Myrtle Albertina was determined to prove to her family that she could keep a secret, and the secret she guarded so carefully was her mother's birthday present—a picture of Myrtle Albertina taken by an itinerant photographer. Her problem became especially difficult after the photographer was wrongly accused of stealing gold from the nearby mine and was jailed before he could finish the picture. However, Myrtle Albertina not only kept her secret but she also helped prove the photographer innocent. The setting is the gold mining country of California in the late 1800's, and the story will have appeal both as period fiction and as a mystery story.

- R Poole, Lynn. Diving for Science; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1955. 160p. \$2.75.

An absorbing account of how diving, both deep sea and shallow water, is being used today to further science in its study of underwater life and conditions. Included is information on the development of diving equipment; safety rules in diving at all levels; and the ways in which a knowledge of underwater plant and animal life, minerals, and land formations can be of help in planning future uses of the sea and its products. In addition to being an interesting book for science classes, there is much good vocational and hobby information here.

- R Pratt, Fletcher. Famous Inventors and Their Inventions; illus. by Rus Anderson. Random House, 1955. 142p. \$2.75.

A history of the major inventions that have affected man's progress from early to modern times. Beginning with the invention of explosives, printing and the telescope, the author then discusses aids to transportation such as jib sails, steam engines, locomotives, automobiles and airplanes; the cotton gin and the reaper; inventions aiding communication; inventions for the home; steel and the skyscraper; military inventions; and atomic energy. Although some of the "inventions" might more accurately be classed as scientific discoveries, the material is, on the whole, accurate and informative.

- M Quigg, Jane. Miss Brimble's Happy Birthday; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Oxford, 1955. 95p. \$2.75.

Miss Brimble owns a novelty shop in a New England town. She entertains her friends, and is helped by them in an emergency. A

very slight story told in a stilted, precise tone.

- NR Richardson, Robert S. Second Satellite; 6-8 illus. by Mel Hunter. Whittlesey House, 1956. 191p. \$2.75.

A labored attempt at science fiction that never quite gets off the ground. Cy Westcott was not too happy at the prospect of spending the summer with his parents and sister at the observatory at Mount Hawthorne, Arizona. However, as the summer progressed he became interested in helping to make observations of Mars and in working with his father in the search for a hitherto unknown earth satellite. Both Cy and Cathy seem unrealistic in their total lack of knowledge of astronomy, even of simple facts that are generally taught in the elementary grades. The ending verges on the sentimental and melodramatic and there is little here to appeal to science fiction fans.

- R Riedman, Sarah Regal. Let's Take a Trip to a Skyscraper; illus. by John Teppich. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 127p. \$2.50.

A history of the development of skyscrapers from the erection of the Home Insurance Building in Chicago to the most recent constructions. In the opening section the author discusses why skyscrapers are a necessary part of large city building and tells of some of the inventions that made possible the erection of the first buildings of this type. The basic structure of typical skyscrapers is described in detail, safety measures are discussed, and the variety of services offered by and for people working in such buildings are described. Examples are chosen primarily from buildings in New York City and Chicago, although there is mention of outstanding buildings in other countries and throughout the rest of the United States. The material is presented clearly enough in both text and drawings that it could be used with children in the lower elementary grades, although the reading level is more suited to the upper elementary grades.

- M Sargent, Shirley. Pipeline Down the Valley. 7-9 Dodd, 1955. 179p. \$2.75.

Francis Lexington, known to his friends as Lex, finished high school with a C average, no desire to attend college, and a guilty conscience over having smashed his sports car in a bit of foolish driving. When his father demanded to know just what he planned to do with himself, Lex replied "get a job" before he realized that the remark would cost him his summer's vacation. Goaded into making good, he went to work on a pipeline job directed by Spike Donovan, Lex's godfather. Summer in San Joaquin Valley was far from pleasant, but Lex stayed with the job, made friends with the Lombardi family, and

proved to his father that he was growing up and learning to be responsible. The details of the work and of a camping trip that Lex and Joe Lombardi took into the nearby mountains are good. The personal relationships, especially Lex's relations with the large, happy Lombardi family, are less realistically handled, and in dealing with these relationships the author sometimes becomes quite preachy. The characters tend to be types rather than real people.

NR Savage, Lee. The Phantom Stallion; 7-9 illus. by Gerald McCann. Dodd, 1955. 178p. \$2.75.

Young Eddie Rivers could conceive of no better way of life than that which he shared with his father, Calico Jim, in the wild horse country of Wyoming. The sheriff and the local school teacher both thought differently and tried to persuade Eddie to live with a family in town and attend school. Eddie's one ambition, however, was to capture the wild stallion which he had named Apples (because it was an Appaloosa) and to clear it of the double charge of cowardice and man-killer. Eventually, of course, he gets both the horse and the schooling. A poorly written story in which the horse reasons like a human being, the characters are so thinly drawn that even the author cannot always remember who is doing what, and statements made in one part of the book are contradicted in other parts. In keeping with the confusion in the text, the illustrations do not always match the text.

M Schlein, Miriam. Lazy Day; illus. by K-2 Harvey Weiss. Scott, 1955. 40p. \$2.

A simple recounting of what happens, or doesn't happen, one day when every one decides to be lazy. At the end the author reminds the reader that lazy days are fine to have but should not come too frequently. A rather pointless book.

R Schneider, Leo and Ames, Maurice U. 5-9 Wings in Your Future; illus. by Jere Donovan. Harcourt, 1955. 151p. \$2.75.

An introduction to modern aviation and what it can mean in the lives of children of today. Beginning with the basic principles of flight, the account includes details of the instruments that are used by commercial air planes; how planes take off and land; how they stay on course, and some of the prospects of flight in the future. Simple experiments that can be performed with materials readily found around a house are included to help ex-

plain some of the principles that are discussed.

R Sereby, Kate. Philomena. Viking, 1955. 4-6 93p. \$2.75.

After her grandmother's death, eleven-year-old Philomena went to Prague to earn her living as a domestic servant and to hunt for her aunt who had gone to the city many years before and never returned to her home village. As she went from job to job Philomena followed signs which she believed came from her grandmother and which she confidently expected to lead her eventually to her aunt. Her housekeeping experiences and her final discovery of her aunt are told with a light and gay, if occasionally sentimental, touch that will appeal to imaginative young readers.

NR Shane, Ruth and Herold. The Twins; The K-1 Story of Two Little Girls Who Look Alike; pictures by Eloise Wilkin. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Slight, inconsequential story of twin girls who looked so much alike that even their own parents had difficulty telling them apart. Finally the girls themselves decided that they did not like being mistaken for each other and accepted their mother's suggestion that they wear different clothes and different hair styles. That solved matters for everyone except the reader—and it is never made very clear which twin chose which hair style. Illustrated with Eloise Wilkin's typical mump-cheeked children and ugly adults.

R Slobodkin, Louis. Millions and Millions 3-5 and Millions! Vanguard, 1955. 34p. yrs. \$2.50.

A humorous, rhythmical recital of the many things to be found in quantity in the world, and ending with the statement that there is "only one you and one me." The illogic of the text will not be as evident to young children as to adults, and children and adults alike will enjoy the rhythm of the text and the humor of the illustrations.

Ad Sperry, Armstrong. Captain Cook Ex- 5-7 plores the South Seas. Random House, 1955. 184p. (A World Landmark Book) \$1.50.

A somewhat superficial biography of Cook, dealing briefly with the main events of his three voyages of discovery in the Pacific. The writing has touches of the style that has made Sperry's fiction titles so popular, but the moments are too few to give the book much strength. There is a double-page-spread

map showing Cook's voyages, but the lack of labels to indicate which lines go with which voyage makes it difficult to follow. Swenson's South Sea Shilling (Viking, 1952) and Borden's He Sailed with Captain Cook (Crowell, 1952), although both somewhat more difficult, are also more detailed and more interesting accounts of Cook's voyages.

NR Stoutenburg, Adrien. Stranger on the Bay. Westminster, 1955. 176p. \$2.75.

A melodramatic, unrealistic mystery involving a young boy's efforts to cure a seeing-eye dog of its fear of fire, and a plot by a gang of confidence men to get an old man's money. Fifteen-year-old Don Spicer's faith in the dog Frosty is rewarded when Frosty saves a blind man from a forest fire. The man turns out to be the real and long-lost nephew of the old man, the imposters are put to flight, and everyone lives happily ever after. The writing depends too heavily on sensationalism and coincidence and the characters are too stereotyped to have any reality.

Ad Street, Julia Montgomery. Fiddler's Fancy; illus. by Don Sibley. Follett, 1955. 157p. \$2.50.

Angeline McCrary was delighted when she saw a redbird fly across her path one morning for it signified company, and visitors were not too frequent at their mountain home. It was an even greater pleasure when the visitor turned out to be the pedler. How Angeline and her brother Billy give up the money they had been saving for just such a time in order to buy spectacles for their great-grandmother makes a pleasant family story. There is little originality to the plot or the characterizations and even less reality to the illustrations which show all of the characters as consistently neat and well-pressed no matter what their activities.

NR Thayer, Jane. Sandy and the Seventeen Balloons; pictures by Meg Wohlberg. Morrow, 1955. 48p. \$2.

Slight story of a small boy who is given seventeen balloons by the clown in a department story. The balloons are gas-filled and lift Sandy off his feet, but he insists on keeping all of them. Then he is carried to the ceiling of the store and can get down only by breaking one balloon at a time. After that he has lost much of his desire for balloons. An implausible story that does not quite come off

as fantasy. The text is easy enough for beginning readers, but Sandy is too young to have much appeal for six or seven-year-olds, and the text is not especially suited for reading aloud.

R Tor, Regina. Getting To Know Puerto Rico. Coward-McCann, 1955. 64p. \$2.50.

An interesting account of life in present day Puerto Rico, with an emphasis on Operation Bootstrap, the effort being made by Puerto Ricans to solve their economic, social and educational problems. The book is timely and will be of value in helping children in the States to understand the background of the Puerto Rican children who are coming to the States to live.

M Tyman, Loretta Marie. Julio; illus. by Jean Charlot. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 176p. \$2.50.

Julio was a small Mexican boy living on Never-never Island in the middle of a lake. Except for the men who made regular trips to the large city on the mainland shore, no one in Julio's village ever left the island, until the day when he grew weary of the teasing of two older boys and hid in his father's boat on market day. Once in the city he became so involved in seeing the sights that he failed to return to the shore in time to sail with his father, who still did not know that he had come over with the boat. A friendly American took Julio in for the night and returned him to his frantic parents the next day. After that visitors were allowed to come to the island and arrangements were made for the island children to visit the city. The story lacks plausibility both in the characterizations and in the incidents that occurred during Julio's visit to the city.

NR West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters at Circus Island; illus. by Helen S. Hamilton. Garden City Books, 1955. 184p. 95¢.

The slap-Happy Hollisters are once more off on a mystery solving spree. This one begins with a poodle stolen from a Shoreham dog show and ends in Florida in the winter quarters of a circus. It just happens that Mr. Hollister has to go to Florida on business, takes his family along, and thus makes it possible for the children to solve the mystery. Sentimental writing, improbable episodes, unreal characters.